

OUR LOSS.

The Great National Calamity.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT.

and Details of the Terrible Event.

The Last Moments of the President.

SCENE AT THE DEATH BED.

The Life and Services of Mr. Lincoln.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE MURDERER.

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THE PLOT OF THE ASSASSIN.

Secretary Stanton to General Dix.

Major General Dix.

The President continues insensible, and is sinking.

Frederick Seward remains without change.

Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe cut upon the head. The attendant is still alive, but hopeless. Major Seward's wounds are not dangerous.

It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that assassins were engaged in the horrible crime—Wilkes

DETAILS OF THE CALAMITY.

THE HERALD DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 15—4:40 P. M.

THE DARK DAY OF THE NATION.

The sun set last night upon a brilliant and rejoicing people. The whole nation was exhilarated with the success which had attended our armies in the field and the final overthrow of the rebellion. But it rose this morning upon a sorrow-stricken people. The flags which had waved from almost every house were lowered to half-mast, the sunshine of yesterday was changed to mourning and weeping, and the day at Washington was heralded by the tolling of bells announcing to a sorrowing people the departure of the spirit of him who but yesterday was the Chief Magistrate of the nation. The Presidential mansion, which had been decorated and festooned with flags and evergreens, was changed to the sad and solemn drapery of mourning. The several departments, which but yesterday were the scene of joyous life and activity, to-day presented the stillness of the grave. During the night the hand of the assassin had deprived the nation of its Chief Magistrate, and the dagger had been applied to the prostrate form of the chief member of the Cabinet and those of his immediate household. For the first time in the annals of this democratic republic government the tragic scenes of the Roman empire and the French revolution had been enacted in our midst, and almost in sight of the place where repose the ashes of the Father of this free country. The ship of state for a brief space of time was without a pilot or helmsman. New hands were called upon to guide her in the storm, and we can only hope and pray that the Ruler of all things may grant that she may safely outlive the storm and escape the rock upon which other nations have been wrecked, and make her onward voyage upon a calm and peaceful sea. The scenes inaugurated were so new, unexpected and startling to this country that the public were appalled at the shocking tragedy. We have read accounts of similar scenes in the history of other nations, but they were before never brought home to our doors. It is not, therefore, at all to be wondered at that the people were almost dumbfounded as the startling intelligence spread over the city that the assassin had carried out his hellish plot upon the person of the President of the United States.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY FOR THE THEATRE FORMED.

It was announced in the afternoon papers here yesterday that the President and Mrs. Lincoln and General Grant would attend Ford's theatre in the evening, to witness the representation of the American Cousin.

When the public saw this announcement they had no idea of the result that was to follow. General Grant left in the evening train, with his wife, for Burlington, New Jersey. Both the President and Mrs. Lincoln were reluctant to attend the theatre, but the former thought they had better go, for the reason that General Grant would not be there, and the public would be disappointed (if having been so prominently announced) if they did not attend. It was the intention of Secretary Stanton to join them at the theatre, but pressing business prevented his going.

THE LAST WORDS FROM MR. LINCOLN'S PEN.

At about half past seven P. M. Hon. George Ashmun called at the White House, and was ushered into the parlor, where Schuyler Colfax was seated, waiting for a short interview with the President on business which had a bearing upon his proposed overland trip. A few moments elapsed, when President Lincoln entered the room, and a short conversation took place, touching upon various matters. The President was in a happy and jovial frame of mind. Mr. Ashmun desiring to see him on special business, and there being no time to attend to it then the President took out a card, and, placing it on his knee, wrote on it as follows:

Allow Mr. Ashmun send friend to come to see me at nine A. M. to-morrow. A. LINCOLN.

These were the last words that he penned. It was the last time that he signed his name to any order, document or message. The last words written by him were thus making an engagement for the morning—an engagement which he was not allowed to meet. Before the hour had arrived he was no more.

THE ASSASSIN'S WOUND.

Mr. Lincoln finally stated that he must go to the theatre, and warmly pressed Speaker Colfax and Mr. Ashmun to accompany him; but they excused themselves on the score of previous engagements. At about eight P. M. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln started for the carriage, the latter taking the arm of Mr. Ashmun and the President and Mr. Colfax walking together. As soon as the President and Mrs. Lincoln were seated in the carriage the latter gave orders to the coachman to drive around to Senator Harris' residence for the purpose of calling on the latter. As the carriage rolled away they both said "Goodby, goodby," to Messrs. Ashmun and Colfax, and the carriage had in a moment disappeared from the group in front of the White House. A few moments later the Presidential party of four persons, namely, the President and Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris and Mr. Rathbone, of Albany, step-son of Senator Harris, arrived at the theatre and entered the front and left hand upper private box.

THE QUIET OF NIGHT RUDDY BROKEN.

The tranquil but joyous scenes which had characterized the national capital for several days past were everywhere manifest in the streets. Bands of music were performing pleasant airs in all directions, and there was nothing in the appearance of the city which indicated that any unusual scene was to transpire, much less that the tragic events which followed would take place. The city was fast settling down into the quiet of repose. Most of the citizens had sought the quiet of their residences. The theatres were the only places which presented any life, when the quiet was broken by the report of a pistol which fired all over the city that the President and Secretary Seward had been assassinated. The reports were so contradictory, and the numerous opposite statements of men who claimed to be eye witnesses, rendered it impossible to get at the real facts for many hours. The following, however, are the most authentic accounts, and in the main are substantially correct, at least as near as can be obtained up to the present moment of writing:

THE ASSASSINATION.

But a moment before the attack was made, the President was leaning forward, resting his head on his hand in his accustomed casual way, his eyes bent upon the stage, and enjoying a hearty laugh. A noise was heard, and the form of a person descended from the box occupied by the President. With one leap he placed himself upon the stage and assumed a tragic posture, flourishing a dagger, turned and faced the audience, shouting "No more tyrants!" also "The South is avenged!" in a tone sufficiently distinct to be heard in all parts of the theatre. The audience, of course, were shocked and dumbfounded. The suddenness of the affair and the melodramatic manner in which the desperado went through his performance gave to the whole thing the appearance of being part of the play. As quick as a flash he disappeared at the rear of the stage, followed by J. B. Stewart, a lawyer of this city, who only missed him by about four feet, as the door was closed by the assassin in Stewart's face. The delay in getting it open again gave him a few seconds' start, and he made his escape.

STATEMENT OF MR. HARRIS.

Miss Harris, who was in the box with the President, makes the following statement:—

Nearly an hour before the commission of the deed the assassin came to the door of the box, and looked in to take a survey of the position of its occupants. It was supposed at the time that it was either a mistake or the exercise of an impudent curiosity. The circumstance attracted no particular attention at the time. Upon his entering the box again Major Rathbone arose and asked the intruder his business. He rushed past the Major without making a reply, and placing his pistol close to the back of the President's head, actually in contact with it, fired, and instantly sprang upon the cushioned balustrade of the box, when he made a backward plunge with his knife, aimed at the face or breast of Mr. Lincoln. Major Rathbone, springing forward to protect the President, received the stab in his arm. The murderer then jumped upon the stage and effected his escape.

The rapidity with which the fatal deed was committed upon the President was astonishing. Mrs. Lincoln saw the form of a person so down from the box and

thought that Mr. Lincoln had fallen out, and looked to see if she could see him on the floor, and barely saw the culprit jump to the stage when all was over; she turned her eyes to the box and saw that Mr. Lincoln's head had dropped forward upon his breast, and at once realized what had transpired. Thus it is that in an unexpected hour a great calamity has fallen upon the nation. All feel the affliction, from the highest to the lowest, and bow with grief at the sad and lamentable event.

CONVULSION IN THE THEATRE.

The most intense excitement ensued in the theatre. Every effort was made to quiet, but to no avail. A rush was made for the door, and the theatre was soon empty.

J. W. MOORE IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSASSIN.

The circumstances of the murder, the air, manner and movements of the man were such that almost every person who had known J. Wilkes Booth declared at once that it was him. Some of the actors on the stage and members of the orchestra declared that they would bet their life upon it being Booth. In making his escape he lost his hat, which was identified as Booth's. A spur was recognized as one obtained by Booth at a stable on that day. In fact the evidence momentarily accumulating leaves beyond a doubt the author of the bloody tragedy.

THE PRESIDENT REMOVED FROM THE THEATRE.

A guard of soldiers rushed to the box occupied by the President as soon as it was known that he was shot, and he was immediately taken out to the house of Mr. Peterson, on the opposite side of Tenth street.

THE MURDER OF THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED TO HIS SON.

The murder of the President was at once announced at Grover's theatre. Little Tad Lincoln was in attendance there, and the moment that he heard the statement he seemed to go almost crazy, shrieked and sobbed in a heartrending manner. The poor boy was taken to the White House, and was soon quieted when it was ascertained that his father was still alive.

THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. SEWARD.

Simultaneously with the tragic events at Ford's theatre, and, as near as can be ascertained, at the precise moment another deed entered the house of Secretary Seward, after some parleying with the servants, and it seems there dealt out his blows in all directions. Some six or seven persons who were in attendance upon the family during the night have made their positive statements of the manner in which the assault was made here, but no two of them agree. It is well established that he applied at Seward's residence as the pretended bearer of a prescription of medicine. Having succeeded in evading the servant at the door he rushed to Seward's chamber, but was confronted by Fred Seward, when he had quite a parley for a moment about the medicine which he had been directed to deliver in person. Finding that he could not succeed in that way he made an attack upon Fred Seward. The desperado was a large and powerful man. He was determined to enter the bedroom, and drew his pistol and mapped it twice, but did not succeed in discharging it. He struck Seward twice upon the head with such force that it not only felled him to the floor and crushed the skull in two or three places, but also breaking the pistol, separating the chamber from the barrel. He then immediately rushed into the room and applied his knife to Secretary Seward, who was lying prostrate in bed. It is evident, from the wounds, that he tried to cut the Secretary's throat. He succeeded in inflicting severe gashes upon his face, laying open the cheek, but his blows were partially warded off by the bedclothes about the Secretary's neck and by the additional fact that Mr. Seward rolled out upon the floor. A soldier by this time had entered the room and sprung upon the assassin's back. He stabbed the soldier in the side and succeeded in breaking away, and, after wounding Major Seward, another son of the Secretary, and an attendant, succeeded in making his escape from the house, mounted his horse and rode away, shouting "Die emperor tyrant!" as he sprang into the middle.

THE ASSASSIN'S WEAPON.

The pistol was a large navy revolver, and was broken in pieces by the blow of the blade, and was one of Whitely's (of Connecticut) make. The knife was some ten or twelve inches in length, and was also left in the house. The only dangerous wounds inflicted there were those upon Frederick Seward.

THE CABINET INFORMED OF THE TRAGIC OCCURRENCE.

Word was immediately sent to the War Department to give the alarm. Two of the officers of the department started for Stanton's residence. As they arrived in front of his house a man with a cloak about him ran from behind the box of a tree and left. Stanton, upon receiving notice, immediately hastened to Seward's residence, where he met most of the other members of the Cabinet. It was there that he received the intelligence of the assault upon Lincoln.

"SEWARD IS SAFE."

Surgeon General Barnes, who was at Willard's Hotel at the time, was sent for, and a few moments elapsed before half a dozen physicians arrived at Seward's residence. A report started that Seward was dead. A messenger came for Dr. Barnes, summoning him to the presence of the President. He had barely time to make an examination of Secretary Seward's wounds, when he left. As he passed out of the house he whispered to a friend "Seward is safe."

THE PRESIDENT'S WOUNDS MORTAL.

This furnished relief and tended to centre the anxiety upon Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Stanton and other members of the Cabinet hastened to the side of Mr. Lincoln. Medical and surgical aid was obtained and everything done that could be of relief, and, if possible, restore the President to life; but it was soon ascertained that it was impossible for Mr. Lincoln to survive, the only question being how many hours he would linger.

THE EXCITEMENT AT WASHINGTON.

Guards were stationed at the corners of the streets leading to the house where the President's body lay. The excitement in the locality was intense. Loud cries of vengeance were uttered, and at one time it was feared that an attack would be made upon the Old Capitol prison, where were confined a large number of rebel prisoners; but under the precautionary measures of some of the more considerate all such demonstrations were prevented.

THE TELEGRAPH WIRE CUT.

The telegraph at the same time with the attack upon the President and Secretary Seward was interrupted. This necessitated the despatch of couriers in all directions. The wires were soon restored and communication with the fortifications in all directions secured.

GENERAL GRANT REPORTED KILLED.

About this time a rumor was started that General Grant had been killed, but there was no foundation whatever for the statement. Colonel Bowers telegraphed to General Grant, which reached him just as he arrived at the depot in Philadelphia. He replied that he was safe and would immediately return.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST THE MURDERERS.

Thus passed the slow hours. Rumors, vague, contradictory, marvellous and startling, were floating about the city. Every few moments strong circumstantial evidence was turned up pointing directly to the parties who performed the atrocious deeds. Long before the President expired the authorities were perfectly satisfied as to who committed both the deeds. The city and military authorities commenced investigations. While the Cabinet ministers and other dignitaries, with the surgeons, were watching over the President every effort was made to capture the murderers. Couriers mounted on fleet horses rushed to and fro, the sound of the hoofs of the horses was heard in all directions. This sound mingled with that of the voices of the military authorities, and the city was filled with the cry of their energy and vigilance. The bells at last came that one of the horses had been captured, nearly exhausted, at the outskirts of the city—the brute bloody. This was identified as the horse ridden off by the assassin from Seward's residence. This gave some hope that the authors of the horrible crime might be captured. On this point speculations became numerous.

SCENES AT THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

As night had nearly passed away and the streaks of dawn were discovered in the east the statement was made that the President might live a day yet. The excited crowds dispersed, leaving comparatively few in the streets. From the moment that the President was shot up to his death he was insensible, and exhibited no signs of pain, recognized no person, and, in fact, he lived and died as one who was unconscious. He was watched with tender care, and he could be seen done for him, but his fate had been decided. For some cause Providence had willed that he should be

taken away from us. Vice President Johnson visited the President during the night, but remained only about an hour. In fact, many of those who had rushed to assist in taking care of the President, found that their presence obstructed rather than gave assistance, and therefore left. Among these were many members of Congress and Western men. The number present was reduced to but few before he breathed his last.

LAST MOMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT.

At about five o'clock this morning I reached the house of Mr. Peterson, where the President lay in his dying agonies. He was lying upon the bed, apparently breathing with great difficulty. He was entirely unconscious, as he had been ever since his assassination. His eyes were protruding from their sockets and suffused with blood. In other respects his countenance was unchanged. At his bedside were the Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Interior, Postmaster General and the Attorney General; Senator Sumner, General Farnsworth, General Todd, cousin to Mrs. Lincoln; Major Hay, M. B. Field, General Halleck, Major General Meigs, Rev. Dr. Gurley, Geo. Quincy, of Illinois; Dr. E. W. Abbott, E. K. Stone, C. D. Hater, Neal, Hall and Lieberman. In the adjoining room were Mrs. Lincoln, her son, Captain Robert Lincoln; Miss Harris, who was with Mrs. Lincoln at the time of the assassination of the President; Rufus A. Andrews and two lady friends of Mrs. Lincoln, whose names I did not ascertain. Mrs. Lincoln was under great excitement and agony, wringing her hands and exclaiming, "Why did he not shoot me instead of my husband? I have tried to be so careful of him, fearing something would happen, and his life seemed to me more precious now than ever. I must go with him," and other expressions of like character. He was constantly going back and forth to the bedside of the President, exclaiming, in great agony, "How can it be so!" The scene was heartrending, and it is impossible to portray it in its living light. It beggars description, and can better be imagined than described. Captain Robert Lincoln bore himself with great firmness, and constantly endeavored to assuage the grief of his mother by telling her to put her trust in God and all would be well. Occasionally, being entirely overcome, he would retire into the hall and give vent to most heartrending lamentations. He would recover himself and return to his mother, and, with remarkable self-possession, try to cheer her broken spirits and lighten her load of sorrow. His conduct was the most remarkable exhibition of calmness in a trying hour that I have ever seen. About a quarter of an hour before the President died his breathing became very difficult, and in many instances seemed to have entirely ceased, so that the surgeons who were holding his pulse supposed him to be dead. He would again rally and breathe with so great difficulty as to be heard in almost every part of the house. Mrs. Lincoln took her last leave of him about twenty minutes before he expired, and was sitting in the adjoining room when it was announced to her that he was dead. When the announcement was made she exclaimed, "Oh, why did you not tell me that he was dying?" The surgeons and the members of the Cabinet, Senator Sumner, Captain Robert Lincoln, General Todd, Mr. Field and Mr. Andrews were standing at his bedside when he breathed his last. Senator Sumner, General Todd, Robert Lincoln and Rufus Andrews stood leaning over the headboard of the bed watching every motion of the dying President. The dying President, Robert Lincoln was resting himself upon the arm of Senator Sumner. The members of the Cabinet were standing by the side of the bed—Secretary Stanton at the left of Mr. Andrews, Mr. Denison, and the others arranged along at his left, and the surgeons were sitting upon the side and foot of the bed, holding the President's hands, and with their watches observing the slow declension of the pulse, and watching the ebbing out of the vital spirit. Such was the solemn stillness for the space of five minutes that the ticking of the watches could be heard in the room. At twenty-two minutes past seven A. M. his muscles relaxed and the spirit of Abraham Lincoln—

hells throughout the city rang. The order was executed without delay. The first notification that the public had here of the death of the President was through the tolling of the bells. It was generally, and in fact universally, known that it was impossible for Mr. Lincoln to live; but still the intelligence that he had actually breathed his last greatly increased the gloom, and the whole city seemed to be bowed down with grief. Sorrow, sadness and woe were depicted upon every countenance on account of our great national calamity. Arrangements were at once made for the removal of the body to the White House.

The remains of the late President were placed in a temporary coffin and removed to the White House soon after nine o'clock this morning.

An escort of cavalry—Union Light Guard—under the command of Lieutenant Jamison, accompanied the remains, which were followed by General Angier, commanding Department of Washington; General Rucker, depot quartermaster; Colonel Paloum, of the War Department; Captain Finley Anderson, Acting Adjutant General Hancock's corps; Captain D. G. Thomas, clothing depot; Captain J. H. Crowell and C. Baker. The solemn procession moved slowly up Tenth street to G, and thence to the White House, the large crowd present along the route standing unmoved. Immediately on the guard being removed a rush was made towards the house occupied during the night by the President, and the crowd remained about the entrance for some time.

THE CONDITION OF THE SEWARD FAMILY.

The death of the President again turned the attention of the public to the family of Seward. I doubt if there ever was so great subdued and pent up rage as that which existed here. Every scrap of news relative to the wounds of Seward, and those of his household, was seized with great avidity.

SECRETARY SEWARD RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

Secretary Stanton called upon Seward just before twelve o'clock. Mr. Seward, recognizing him at once, asked him why the President had not called upon him. Seward up to this had no knowledge of had the remotest idea that the assassin had attacked any person outside of his house. Upon Stanton, therefore, devolved the unpleasant duty of informing him of the fate of the President. Considering it best not to keep him longer in ignorance of the sad event, Stanton gave him a short and succinct statement of what had transpired, and he at once appeared to comprehend the great events of the past night. Instead of having the effect to depress him, it seemed to nerve him to meet his own afflictions, and his symptoms have been encouraging and hopeful all day. The other members of his household and attendants who were wounded appear to have been more injured than supposed last night. Frederick Seward and one of the attendants are in a more precarious condition than Secretary Seward. The symptoms of the former are hopeful, but he is in a critical condition. Two pieces of skull have been taken out, and it is probable that the next twenty-four hours will decide the question whether he will recover or not.

WASHINGTON IS MOURNING.

The entire city is draped in mourning. It seemed that all were engaged in draping their buildings with crepe. The department buildings were all tastefully draped. The War Department was literally covered. The pillars were thickly draped, and the entire front was richly festooned with black. The other buildings were arranged with good taste, but not so extensively as the War Department. The hotels, private residences and places of business were also appropriately dressed in black. In short, a mantle of gloom was thrown over the entire national capital.

The day of the funeral had not, up to this evening, been fixed, the family not having yet been consulted about it. It may take place on Monday, or at an earlier day than Thursday, as had been suggested by friends. The remains will be removed to Springfield, Illinois. The city councils met this evening to take such action as will be expressive of their regret for the death of the President.

The clergy of the city were called to a meeting for a similar purpose.

Nothing has been talked of or thought about here to-day except the atrocious assassination and attempt at assassination made last evening by suicidal sympathizers and desperadoes. Hundreds of Seward residents have been circulating all day. There has been no disturbance, and no attempts at disturbance, save a few individual collisions with parties who were wicked and foolish enough to give utterance to diabolical and atrocious sentiments. In every case of this kind the parties were promptly arrested and committed to the guard house. In the present temper of the public no tolerance exists towards those who are disposed to manifest sympathy with assassins, or the cause which they are attempting to avenge. These diabolical outrages have, for the time at least, caused a great revulsion of public feeling, and there is little disposition to condole or temper justice with mercy. This feeling of resentment against the mass of the rebels will doubtless be moderated when a full investigation shall have been conducted, and these acts have been committed by a few fanatical slaves, crazed by the ruin which has overtaken the cause of treason, and the destruction and extinction of their bogus confederacy.

To-night the streets are more quiet, and the excitement is gradually subsiding. Everything possible is being done to secure the assassins.

The church of Dr. Gurley, where Mr. Lincoln usually attended service, has been very beautifully draped with mourning both inside and out. The pew usually occupied by the President and his family has been appropriately decorated with the habiliments of woe, and will to-morrow be closed. To-morrow is Communion Sabbath, and, under the afflicting circumstances, the services will be peculiarly impressive and affecting.

WASHINGTON, April 15—11:45 A. M.

An autopsy of the corpse of Mr. Lincoln is now being made at the White House. The coffin has been prepared, and the body will be placed in it as soon as the embalming process is completed. The embalming of the body has been entrusted to Dr. Brown, of the firm of Brown & Alexander, embalmers, of this city. The coffin is of handsome mahogany, covered with black cloth and lined with lead, with an interior lining of white silk.

Upon a silver plate is the inscription:—

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BORN FEBRUARY 12, 1809, DIED APRIL 15, 1865.

The body will be embalmed by three o'clock, and preparations will be made for the body of the President to lie in state at the White House on Monday.

A dense crowd accompanied the remains to the White House, where a military guard excluded the crowd at length. Some but persons of the household and personal friends of the deceased to enter the premises, Senator Yates and Representative Farnsworth being among the number admitted.

The body is being embalmed, with a view to its removal to Illinois.

Flags over the departments and throughout the city are at half mast. Scarcely any business is being transacted anywhere, either in private or public account.

Our citizens, without any preconcert whatever, are draping their premises with festoons of mourning.

The bells are tolling mournfully. All is the deepest gloom and sadness. Strong men weep in the streets. The grief is widespread and deep, and in strange contrast to the joy so lately manifested over our recent military victories.

This is indeed a day of gloom.

The government departments are closed by order, and will be draped with the usual emblem of mourning.

Immediately after the President's death a Cabinet meeting was called by Secretary Stanton, and held in the house in which the corpse lay. Secretaries Stanton, Welles and Chase; Postmaster General Dennison and Attorney General Seward were present. The results of the conference are as yet unknown.

CONFIDENTIAL OF THE SECRETARY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. Fred Seward's skull has been trepanned, and is as comfortable as could be expected. There are no additional unfavorable symptoms and slight hope of his recovery. Secretary Seward remains about the same as through the day.

At the cabinet meeting yesterday, which lasted for two hours, the official policy of the government toward Virginia was discussed, the best feeling prevailing. It was stated that it was determined to adopt a very liberal policy.

Continued on fourth page.